

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 07684 091640Z
ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PA-01 IOE-00 SSO-00 ONY-00
/022 W

-----032223 091704Z /50

O 091602Z SEP 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 958

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7684

LIMDIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR HAMILTON JORDAN

IO-FOR ASST SECY MAYNES ONLY; PA-FOR HODDING CARTER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO

SUBJ: LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM EC-9

REF: GENEVA 7685

FOLLOWING IS A DRAFT COPY OF A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE EC-9 WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL PROBABLY BE
DELIVERED ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13:

MR PRESIDENT:

I AM WRITING TO YOU ON BEHALF OF THE NINE MEMBER
GOVERNMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES TO CONVEY TO YOU
OUR VIEWS ON THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL
LABOR ORGANISATION.

THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING RECENT EVENTS IN THE ILO WITH KEEN CONCERN.
WE SHARE THE PREOCCUPATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES' GOVERNMENT.
LIKE THE US GOVERNMENT, WE CONSIDER THAT CERTAIN
DEVELOPMENTS AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ILO, HELD IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 07684 091640Z

JUNE 1977, WERE DAMAGING TO THE ORGANISATION. ONE OF THE
RESULTS OF THAT CONFERENCE, THE FAILURE TO ADOPT THE REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS, SEEMS
TO US PARTICULARLY REGRETTABLE. IT IS OUR FIRM VIEW THAT THE
SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE ILO REQUIRES THAT THE ANNUAL RE-
PORTS OF THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ADOPTED AND SHOULD BE AC-
TED UPON. IT IS OUR INTENTION, WHICH WE BELIEVE IS SHARE BY

MANY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, TO ENSURE THAT THE MAIN POINTS IN THIS YEARS REPORT, AND IN PARTICULAR ITS ENDORSEMENT OF THE NEED FOR A SINGLE STANDARD IN JUDGING PERFORMANCE, ARE ACTIVELY PURSUED WITHIN THE ORGANISATION.

THE 1977 CONFERENCE WAS THE MORE DISAPPOINTING IN THAT WE CONSIDER THE ILO TO BE AN ELEMENT OF MAJOR AND INDEED GROWING IMPORTANCE IN THE UN SYSTEM. AS THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE SHOWED, THE ILO HAS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE ATTEMPTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO TACKLE THE CRUCIAL PROBLEMS OF NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS AND OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IT HAS A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE BASIC NEEDS STRATEGY. SIMILARLY IT HAS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHERE THE ILO MACHINERY IS THE LONGEST ESTABLISHED AND, SO FAR, THE MOST EFFECTIVE OF THAT DEPLOYED BY ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION. FINALLY THE REGULAR WORK OF THE ILO IN STANDARD SETTING AND IN IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF WORK THROUGHOUT THE WORLD SEEMS TO US OF UNDIMINISHED IMPORTANCE.

FOR THESE REASONS WE CONSIDER THE ILO REMAINS AN ORGANISATION FULLY WORTHY OF OUR SUPPORT. IT WOULD BE A MAJOR BLOW BOTH TO THE ORGANISATION ITSELF AND TO THE UN SYSTEM AS A WHOLE IF THE US WERE TO WITHDRAW. NOR DO WE BELIEVE THAT THE RESULTING SITUATION WOULD BE READILY RECTIFIED. THE TASK OF REFORM AND OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES WE SHARE IN THE ILO MIGHT WELL BE IMPOSSIBLE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE UNITED STATES EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NINE WOULD CONTINUE THEIR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 07684 091640Z

EFFORTS TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE VALUE OF THE ILO'S SERVICES TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WORKING TOGETHER WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THE ORGANISATION AND SEEKING THE SUPPORT AND GOODWILL OF THE MANY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WHO SHARE OUR OBJECTIVES, WE CONSIDER THAT THERE WOULD BE A REASONABLE PROSPECT OF MAKING PROGRESS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND OF PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF THE ORGANISATION. THIS WOULD OF COURSE REQUIRE FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF ALL INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH LIE AHEAD. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO SECURE A STRENGTHENING OF THE DEFENCE OF DUE PROCESS THROUGH AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17 OF THE STATUTES. THE NECESSARY RESTRUCTURING OF THE ORGANISATION, INCLUDING, FOR INSTANCE, CHANGES IN VOTING PROCEDURES, WILL REQUIRE THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. BUT IF THE DISCUSSIONS ARE APPROACHED IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANISATION, INCLUDING THE PRESERVATION BOTH OF THE PRINCIPLES OF TRIPARTISM AND OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN BE SATISFIED.

THERE IS OF COURSE NO PROSPECT OF RESOLVING THESE COMPLICATED ISSUES IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. BUT A RECENT

OPINION BY THE LEGAL ADVISER TO THE ILO IN RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRY CONCLUDES THAT A MEMBER GOVERNMENT CAN EXTEND ITS NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM MEMBERSHIP FOR A DEFINED PERIOD OF TIME. WE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL WITHDRAW ITS NOTICE OF INTENT. IF HOWEVER THERE ARE FACTORS WHICH MAKE THAT IMPOSSIBLE, WE URGE THAT YOU EXTEND THE FORMAL NOTICE FOR ANOTHER YEAR SO AS TO ALLOW TIME TO WORK OUT LASTING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT THE ILO. SUCH AN EXTENSION WOULD COVER NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE, TO WHICH ANY RESULTS OF OUR WORK IN THE MONTHS AHEAD WILL NEED TO BE SUBMITTED.

IN THIS WAY ALL OF US TOGETHER, WILL BE ABLE TO WORK EFFECTIVELY IN SUPPORT OF AN ORGANISATION WHOSE HISTORICAL COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE IS SO CONSONANT WITH THE PURPOSE.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 GENEVA 07684 091640Z

POSES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT.

VANDEN HEUVEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA07684
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770327-0399
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770982/aaaacrfrn.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 00599849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 GENEVA 7685
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1336968
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM EC-9
TAGS: ELAB, US, ILO, EC-9, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/00599849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009